

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 /088 W

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R 040805Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6776

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD: HK

SUBJ: HONG KONG AND GSP

REF: STATE 162772

1. CONGENOFFS VOORHEES AND HIRSHORN CALLED ON DCI DIRECTOR JORDAN AT HIS REQUEST. HE HAS RECENTLY RETURNED FROM LEAVE. CON-
VERSATION WAS TAKEN UP BY DISCUSSION OF JORDAN'S CONCERN RE-
GARDING HONG KONG'S INCLUSION IN GSP. HE REITERATED ALL THE
ARGUMENTS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE IN THE PAST, SUCH AS HKG'S COM-
MITMENT TO REMOVE ALL PREFERENCES, FACT THAT GSP INCLUSION WILL
ENCOURAGE HONG KONG TO DIVERSIFY EXPORTS AWAY FROM TEXTILES, AND
THAT MANY COUNTRIES ALREADY DESIGNATED HAVE HIGHER PER CAPITA
INCOMES THAN HONG KONG. HE ALSO MADE THE ARGUMENT THAT IT WOULD
BE BETTER TO MAKE THE ANNOUNCEMENT NOW WHILE LOCAL PUBLIC ATTEN-
TION IS TEMPORARILY FOCUSED ON OTHER ISSUES, THAN TO WAIT UNTIL
THE ISSUE HEATED UP AGAIN. HE THOUGHT JUST BEFORE OR DURING
AMERICAN FORTNIGHT WOULD BE EXCELLENT TIME TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT.

2. CONOFFS DREW ON GUIDANCE CONTAINED IN PARA 2 REFTL,
AND SAID THAT IT APPEARED UNLIKELY AND UNREALISTIC TO EX-
PECT THAT ANNOUNCEMENT COULD BE MADE AT TIME OF AMERICAN
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FORTNIGHT (OCTOBER 18). THEY POINTED OUT THE ADVANTAGES OF

HONG KONG'S BEING INCLUDED AT THE SAME TIME AS SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES RATHER THAN BEING DESIGNATED SEPARATELY. JORDAN APPRECIATED THIS REASONING MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO PUSH HIS CASE IN A WAY THAT MIGHT BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. AT SAME TIME HE HOPED WE WOULD APPRECIATE POINTS HE HAD MADE AND HKG'S CONCERN THAT ANNOUNCEMENT BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. COMMENT: (1) JORDAN'S REMARKS ONCE AGAIN UNDERLINE THE IMPORTANCE ATTACHED TO INCLUSION IN THE GSP BY HONG KONG. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CURRENT INFORMATION DEPT CAN GIVE ON THE TIMING OF HK'S MOVE FROM LIST B TO LIST A. (2) HAVING SAID THE FOREGOING AND APPRECIATING THE TIMING CONSIDERATIONS, WE WONDER IF THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF GETTING SOMETHING FAVORABLE ON THIS IN TIME FOR THE AMERICAN FORTNIGHT (OCTOBER 18-NOVEMBER 2). GIVEN THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION THE FORTNIGHT WILL BE MAKING TO OUR US EXPORT INTERESTS AND GENERAL IMAGE HERE WE NATURALLY WOULD LIKE TO AVOID IF POSSIBLE ANY RISK OF IT BEING MARRED BY NEEDLING FROM THE LOCAL PRESS OR BUSINESS COMMUNITY ON THE GSP MATTER.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: IMPORTS, TARIFF LAW, GENERALIZED PREFERENCES (TARIFFS), DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975HONGK10302
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750305-0691
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750985/aaaacwzx.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 162772
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HONG KONG AND GSP
TAGS: ETRD, HK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006